

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 8, as amended, remain herein.

1. The claims have been amended better to point out that which applicants regard as their invention and to patentably distinguish the claims over the cited prior art. More particularly, the claims have been revised to restrict the metal in the catalyst layer of the catalyst body to an alkali metal.

2. Claims 2 and 3 are objected to for specifically recited informalities. These claims are amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner; the objections are moot.

3. Claims 1 to 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Lindner et al., hereinafter "Lindner", (U.S. Pat. 6,348,430 B1). This rejection, if applied to the claims as amended, is traversed.

The present invention is directed to solving the problem of the adverse effect alkali metals have on a catalyst carrier in catalyst compositions when the catalyst operates at high temperatures.

Applicants solved this prior art problem and obtained a catalyst having a long duration period by adding an "anchor"

material (stated in the claims as "a substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal" that will react more with these alkali metals than will the catalyst carrier. See also specification Paragraphs [0005] and [0006]. Preferred "anchor" materials are recited in claim 2. There is no teaching in the cited art of adding such an "anchor" material to a catalyst composition to solve this problem.

Lindner discloses an exhaust gas catalyst containing two catalytically active layers on a carrier structure:

1. The first layer is described in col. 4, lines 26-34, the first layer is applied to the carrier structure. The first layer contains several finely divided solids, one or more highly dispersed alkaline earth metal oxides and at least one platinum group metal. The platinum group metals are in close contact with all of the constituents in the first layer.
2. The second layer is described in col. 4, lines 48-60, and that layer also contains several finely divided solids and at least one platinum group metal; only a portion of these finely

divided solids in the second layer is used as support for the platinum group metals in the second layer.

The finely divided solids in each of these layers comprise at least one finely divided oxygen-storing material and at least one other finely divided component.

The "finely divided components" are described in col. 4, line 61 to col. 5, line 10. The "finely divided components" may be oxides of alkaline earth metal, oxides of scandium, yttrium, gallium, indium, silicon, titanium, zirconium, hafnium, germanium, tin, lead, vanadium, niobium, tantalum, chromium, molybdenum, and tungsten.

As noted above, the catalyst layer metal in the catalyst body of the revised claims is an alkali metal, a material not mentioned in or suggested by Lindner. Accordingly, for this and the other reasons given above, claims 1 to 8 patentably define over Lindner.

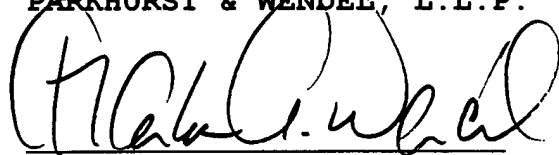
Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

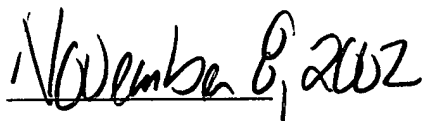
Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Wendel", written over a horizontal line.

Charles A. Wendel

Registration No. 24,453

A handwritten date "November 8, 2002" written in dark ink.

Date

CAW/EC/ch

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MARKUP

1. (Amended) A catalyst body comprising a carrier and a catalyst layer containing an alkali metal [and/or an alkaline earth metal], loaded on the carrier, which catalyst further contains a substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal], dominating over reaction between main components of the carrier and the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal].

2. (Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal], dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal] is at least one member [kind of substances] selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

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3. (Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the catalyst layer further contains at least one member of the [kind of] noble metals selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

4. (Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal], dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal] is contained in the carrier.

5. (Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal], dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal] is contained in the catalyst layer.

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6. (Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 1, wherein a layer of the substance capable of reacting with the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal], dominating over the reaction between the main component of the carrier and the alkali metal [and/or the alkaline earth metal] is formed between the carrier and the catalyst layer.